

EIGHTBALL

Number 6

\$2.25
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In this issue:

MAROONED ON A DESERT
ISLAND WITH TWO PEOPLE
ON THE SUBWAY

Like a
Velvet
Glove
cast in
IRON

the DOCTOR INFINITY story



PANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS



for
MATURE
READERS

Daniel Clowds

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**WHERE
DO
WISEGUYS
COME
FROM?**

City of Newton.



From Bingo games.



Back alleys.



A mother's womb. Every human being is originally from a mother's womb.



They're bums, that's what they are! Wise guys!



From the street. When they're broke they become wise guys. Wise guys also collect from the high society, they give them some change. They wear ragged clothes and they eat garbage. They sleep in dilapidated broken down houses, or a barn.

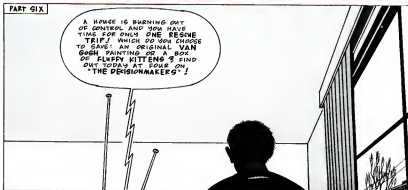


Dialogue © Dave Greenberger from DUPLEX PLANET # 57 (4x4 descriptions) #311 PO Box 1230, SARATOGA SPRING, NY (12866)



PART SIX

A HOUSE IS BURNING OUT OF CONTROL AND YOU HAVE TIME FOR ONLY ONE RESCUE TRIP! WHICH DO YOU CHOOSE TO SAVE: AN ORIGINAL VAN GOGH PAINTING OR A BOX OF FLUFFY KITTENS? FIND OUT TODAY AT FOUR ON "THE DECISIONMAKERS"!















Meanwhile...

LOOK... I'LL
ASK YOU ONE
MORE TIME
WHERE IS
GODFREY?

I DON'T
KNOW ANY
GODFREY.



THEN WHY
ARE YOU
WEARING
THOSE
CLOTHES?

I TOLD
YOU... I
BOUGHT THEM
AT A USED
CLOTHING
STORE.



LOOK, SHITHEAD... IF YOU
WANT TO FUCK AROUND AND
ACT LIKE AN ASSHOLE BE
MY GUEST... I'VE GOT ALL
THE TIME IN THE
FUCKIN' WORLD!

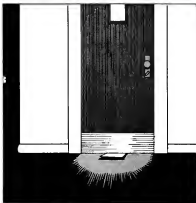
The following night...













HI KIDS! WELCOME TO THE LETTERS PAGE! I'M VENUS, YOUR LOVELY HOST... THE BOGS (MY GOD-LIKE CREATOR) HAS ASKED ME TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS AND COMMENTS... WE LOVE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!



Eightball #5 is cool! And the new paper makes clean with a moist towel!

Dave Greenberger
Saratoga Springs, NY.

8-Ball is disgusting and nasty. "The Coffee Plate" alone is worth \$ or 4 dollars.

George Meyer
The Simpsons

IS THAT ANYWHERE NEAR THE HAMPTONS?

...hey...on the cover, that ain't no octagon that Lil' Octagon is a corin! What a twinger, he even goes for them hexagons!

Ray Tompkins
Austin, TX.

I DID THAT COVER SO FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE ISH ITSELF (FOR REASONS EVEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND) THAT "HEXAGON HENDERSON'S" NAME WAS CHANGED TO THE MORE MARKETABLE "LIL' OCTAGON" IN THE INTERIM!

...Hey, in 8-Ball's chatbot is saying "THOUS H-CHIBS!" What's the H mean? As you can see I'm practicing to tweet in English, a bit...

Julie Doucet
Montreal, Que.

I THINK YOU CAN SWEAR JUST FINE, JULIE! READER: SHY DIRTY PLOTTE (JULIE'S SEE-YO-TEE-OWL LIL' COMIC MAF-AZINE) OR I WILL PERSONALLY FUCK YOU UP! (PUBLISHED BY ORAWN & QUARTERLY)

Do you ever get a knot while drawing Eightball?

Terry Meete
Toronto, Ont.

WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR MOTHER?

BUY THE FOLLOWING ITEMS NOW:

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□ EIGHTBALL #3: GONE... GOLD OUT!

□ EIGHTBALL #4: The last few copies are being sold at the break! +2.50

□ EIGHTBALL #5: Years from now you'll wish you had stocked up on this one! +2.50

□ EIGHTBALL #6: You're getting fingerprints on this copy - buy another while you can! +2.50

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□ \$600!: THE LLOYD LLEWELLYN COLLECTION: Woot! bargain at only +32.00

□ LIMITED EDITION GILK SCREEN PRINT FOR "MIGHTY LIT." SHOW: 8x10x10 6-color print, limited to 250 copies, signed by the artist (me, hatch). +60.00

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PLUG CORNER:

THE BEGINNING Toronto
BEAM Pittsburgh
SEE HEAR New York
HAILEY'S COMIX Chicago

WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING "8009" COMICS (i.e. 8-BALL AND COMIX) BY MY FRIENDS) THERE ARE FOUR OF THE FINEST RETAILERS IN NORTH AMERICA! LET'S GIVE 'EM A BIG HAND AND LOT'S OF \$!...IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR STORE IN THIS SPACE: a.) SELL A LOT OF 8-BALLS. b.) WRITE AND TELL ME ABOUT IT.



"HONK... H-HONK..."

Gay cartoon from my dream 8/21/90

the DOCTOR INFINITY

Story



David Szymanski

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE 1991 DUCKY AWARDS FOR COMIC EXCELLENCE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN INTRODUCING ONE OF THE GIANTS OF THE COMIC-BOOK BUSINESS...

HE'S BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF COMICS SINCE THEIR INCEPTION... HERE TO PRESENT THE HALL OF FAME AWARD PLEASE WELCOME THE LEGENDARY DOCTOR INFINITY!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP



THANK YOU, TIMMY... ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF "LEGENDARY" ISN'T JUST A NICE WAY OF SAYING "OLD!"

CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

AT ANY RATE, I HAVE INDEED BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS WONDERFUL BUSINESS AND TO HAVE WORKED WITH SO MANY TALENTED PEOPLE FOR ALL THESE YEARS...



...IN THE BEGINNING WE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT A COMIC BOOK WAS... NOT UNTIL A SKINNY HIGH SCHOOL KID NAMED BILLY SCHWOLE WALKED INTO OUR OFFICE ONE DAY WITH A CREATION THAT WAS TO RESHAPE OUR ENTIRE CULTURE!



WHEN I FIRST LOOKED AT "MISTER POWERFUL" I WAS THUNDERSTUCK! THIS IS WHAT COMIC BOOKS ARE! IDEALIZED STORIES OF POWER AND HEROISM THAT WOULD FUEL THE IMAGINATIONS OF OUR YOUNG READERS! COMIC BOOKS AND SUPER-HEROES HAVE BEEN INSEPARABLE EVER SINCE!



OF COURSE, BY NOW MR. POWERFUL IS AN INSTITUTION SEEN EVERYWHERE FROM MOVIE SCREENS TO CHILDREN'S LUNCHBOXES. BUT IN 1939 IT WAS THE UNDEVELOPED BRAINCHILD OF A GIFTED YOUNG GENIUS...



1939
Who, He'll be... You're EARLY! It's only Tuesday!

Yes sir... I-I wanted to talk to you about this Mr. Powerful radio show.

Yes! What is it, my boy?



Well... it seems to be very popular and my fiancée Staney seems to think that I should get some MONEY from it since I have mentored Mr. Powerful 2 and...

I'm afraid that's impossible, Billy! You were PAID for Mr. Powerful! I don't recall any complaining when I wrote you that first check! You signed a contract!



Yes... I-I see...

But I'm glad you came in today, Billy! Listen, we've been thinking of getting some OTHER artists to try their hand at Mr. Powerful! Which do you think? You would still write it, of course...







UNFORTUNATELY, AT THE APEX OF OUR SUCCESS CAME THE M-CARTHY ERA... THE COMIC-BOOK INDUSTRY WAS DEVASTATED BY WHAT WAS IN EFFECT A MODERN-PAY INQUISITION... WE WERE TREATED LIKE CRIMINALS AND TAKEN TO TASK SIMPLY FOR DOING WHAT WE LOVED!



My client was just trying to compete in the marketplace... He certainly didn't INVENT horror comics, though he is now assumed to have published them...



It seems to me that if you REALLY want to terrify someone you should focus on the INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS who came up with this VILE GARBAGE! THEY signed their names to it! NOWHERE do you see my client's name on any of those books!



THE SPIRIT OF THE BUSINESS HAD BEEN CRASHED AND THINGS WERE NOT THE SAME FOR MANY YEARS... I BEGAN WORKING AS AN EDITOR AND WRITER AT A SMALL, RUN-OF-THE-MILL OUTFIT CALLED MERRY COMICS...



...WE WERE NOT DOING WELL AND ONE DAY, OUT OF DESPERATION I IMAGINE, I GOT AN IDEA... WHAT IF I WERE TO BRING BACK SUPERHEROS! ONLY THIS TIME THEY'D BE MORE LIKE REAL PEOPLE --WITH REAL PROBLEMS TO MATCH THEIR AWESOME POWERS...



THAT SIMPLE IDEA CHANGED THE FACE OF COMICS AND INITIATED MY LONG-TIME PARTNERSHIP WITH ME, ROY HOOVER... I WAS THE DREAMER IF YOU WILL, HE THE TECHNICIAN WHO PUT THOSE DREAMS ON PAPER--I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT OURS WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE...



It looks great as always Roy!

Haven't you got that panel written yet? What? Hurry it up!



Okay, how's this: LARA-MAN: "If I think that Spanish foot syndrome I'll have to... uh! THE PRESIDENT! But how? I thought you were... Frostbite! What? Dead? Snow again, Sandy-Pants!"



Not bad, not good! Work on it... MY name's going on there, not yours!

THOSE WERE WONDERFUL DAYS FOR ME... OUR OFFICE BECAME A CLUBHOUSE FOR THE MOST TALENTED PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY... THE AIR WAS ALIVE WITH ENTHUSIASM... WE WERE HAVING FUN AND YOU COULD SEE IT IN THE PRODUCT WE TURNED OUT!



1968

Swain? What are you doing here?

I want to know why you took me off that 'lad'??

You missed a deadline... That's life!

But...



LOOK--you want work? Okay, I'll put you on "America's Best"... How's that?

What? Really? ...I-I... Thanks, Doctor... I-I can't tell you how m...



All you have to do is one little thing--kneel before me and kiss my foot!

Relax!

...You can't be sex...



I'm PERFECTLY serious! If you want this job badly enough, you'll KISS MY FOOT!

...B-But...



I'm about to cancel the offer, Mr. Swain!



SMACK!



AND NOW, AS PUBLISHER OF THE INFINITY COMICS GROUP I'M TRYING TO TEACH A FEW OF THE TRICKS I'VE LEARNED IN OVER FIFTY YEARS IN THE BUSINESS TO TOMORROW'S BOB SILVERS AND ROY HOOVERS!



HERE, ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 21ST CENTURY, OUR GOAL IS TO BROADEN THE HORIZONS OF THE COMIC WORLD... WE'RE OPENING THINGS UP, EXPLOITING NEW MARKETS... IN FACT, A FEATURE LENGTH FILM BASED ON DAN PUSSEY'S 'TERMINANTS' SERIES IS NOW IN PRE-PRODUCTION AT A MAJOR STUDIO!



CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

TRY NOT TO BLUSH, MR. PUSSEY!

HA HA HA



Watching you sign this contract takes me back to the old days—like a young Billy Solmelo signing on with me to publish MR. POWERFUL... *Sneeze* Excuse me, Mr. Pussey... *Sneeze*



NOW, BEFORE I HEAR OUT MY WELCOME ENTIRELY I GUESS I'D BETTER GET TO WORK AND PRESENT THIS AWARD! THE HALL OF FAME AWARD IS TO BE GIVEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE CAREER EPISTEMIZES THE PINNACLE OF EXCELLENCE WITHIN OUR FIELD...



SACRED AND THE WINNER IS...

RIP

NAT KNUDSEN! FOR SIXTY YEARS MR. KNUDSEN HAS BEEN THE FOREMOST LETTERER AND RULER OF PANEL LINES THAT OUR BUSINESS HAS KNOWN! ...HE CONTINUES TO WORK TO THIS VERY DAY, TIRELESSLY KEEPING THE WHEELS OF OUR INDUSTRY IN MOTION!



CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

Look at him go! What I wouldn't give for a HUNDRED Nat Knudsen's!



C'MON "OLD MAN" ... GET OVER HERE AND ACCEPT THIS THING... IT'S HEAVY!



CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

NAT, ON BEHALF OF THE 1991 BUCKY AWARDS I'D LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH OUR HALL OF FAME AWARD AND PRAISE YOU AS A SYMBOL OF DEDICATION AND AMBITION WITHIN OUR INDUSTRY! YOU ARE LIVING PROOF THAT HARD WORK PAYS OFF!



I'M SO HAPPY!

END

MAROONED

ON A DESERT
ISLAND WITH THE PEOPLE
ON THE SUBWAY...



Daniel Clowes 1991

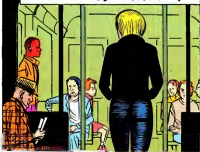
Man, this guy is unbelievable...
Everything he has on is plaid... what
a cool get-up.



He doesn't have a clue. I wish I had
a camera...



Lookit them legs! -- She's okay...



Except what a sucker... those ob-
noxious, trendy clothes... I guess
she thinks she looks "bad"...



Still, if this subway car were ship-
wrecked on a deserted island I guess
I'd take her for my "mate"...



She's no movie star but she's cute...



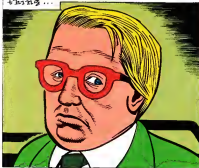
Maybe she'd pick this creep over me though... He looks like a psycho but you never know what girls are into... And pushy-looking guys like him make natural leaders...



God knows I have no leadership qualities... Maybe this guy could take over-- he looks like a businessman, he must have some "management skills"...



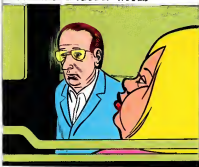
Then again, he must be pretty much of a loser if he's a businessman and he's on the subway instead of in a limo or a helicopter or something...



Still, if he did take over he'd probably get the cute girl... I wonder who I'd get stuck with then? ... hmmm...



This guy and this fat girl would be perfect for each other... they look pretty socially dysfunctional... They'd probably be happier away from the modern world...



How about these three co-workers... who knows how they'd fit in... they'd probably be kind of a Greek chorus, constantly talking about the rest of us on the island... Or maybe one of 'em would even be the businessman guy...



Actually there'd be better for this Jim Belushi-type ever here... God I hate guys like him! What a typical beer-drinking, clock-punching, wuv-listening, I'm just a regular guy! deer dick pasta-eating Chicago-style Cubs fan asshole! I'd like to see him on a desert island! He probably sells CD players!



* NECESSARILY POPULAR CHICAGO TALK-RADIO STATION... PG

I'm the smartest person on this train only I don't have any useful knowledge at all... We'd starve to death if I was in charge! Nobody ever understands what I'm talking about anyway...



He'd be a really valuable commodity... Without a guy like him with all sorts of basic know-how we'd really be fucked... Nobody would ever take orders from him though...



Then again, what good would I be? At best I'd be kind of a 'Gilligan' character... Only there'd probably all hate me...



Maybe I could be friends with this goofball... he looks like a physics teacher or something...



This guy looks alright... a loner... he's just a high school kid but he looks pretty smart... I dunno, maybe not... Maybe the physics teacher could turn his walkman into a train radio...



I wonder if there'd be a lot of racial tension on the island... like if the cute girl and the high school kid paired off the jungle guy would probably break out... things could get pretty fucked up...



We'd have to kind-of adopt them... and when the girl grows up she'd be made queen of the island...



And then future historians would find them and then'd be able to figure out a lot of things about our lives and I wouldn't have been totally useless...



What about these kids? They're pretty young... it's hard to tell... I never knew how old kids are... I guess they'll be alright...



By then the jungle would probably be dead... he'd get killed somehow... and most of the old people would've kicked off... We'd have it all figured out by then... I could do drawings on cave walls... or on leaves or something...

